Acute shortage of power in Bihar

*32. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in Bihar;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase the production of power;

(c) the date from when the Kanti Thermal Power Plant will start production for commercial purposes:

(d) the dates from when the Kahalgaon and Koel-Karo power projects are likely to be started; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Bihar gets no electricity from Farakka?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There is power shortage in Bihar. To mitigate power shortage a number of measures including renovation and modernisation of thermal plants at Patratu, Barauni and Karbigahia and development of additional generating capacity have been initiated.

(c) The first unit of 110 MW at Kanti (Muzaffarpur) Thermal Power Plant was commissioned on 31st March, 1985. It is expected to start generation by the end of July, 1985. Efforts are being made to commission the second unit also during the current year.

(d) The time schedule of commissioning for Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project and Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Power Project cannot be finalised till land acquisition has been completed.

(e) Bihar will get its share from Farakka when the power station is commissioned.

Subarnarekha Multi-Purpose Project

*33. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project in the West Bengal-Biha-Orissa Sector; and

(b) whether the project will be utilize to check Floods?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) Out of an estimated cost of Rs. 480.9 crores, an expenditure of Rs. 85 crores has been incurred so far on the Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project. Construction work has commenced on the Chandil Dam and Galudih Barrage. Construction work is also in progress on Chandil Left Canal, Icha Right Canal, Galudih Link Canal and Kharkai barrage right canal. The Land acquisition work for the Kharkai Dam is in an advanced stage.

(b) There is provision in the Chandil reservoir for a flood moderation storage, which will reduce the impact of floods in the downstream area

Sharing of Ganga Waters

*34 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether dispute regarding sharing of Ganga Waters with Bangladesh has been resolved; and

(b) if not, by when an accord is likely to be reached to settle this long standing issue?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The question of sharing the Ganga Waters and of the possible augmentation of the flows at Farakka were last discussed by the Irrigation Ministers of India and Bangladesh in June, 1985 at Dhaka. The talks were adjourned and are to be resumed in New Delhi at an early date. Efforts are being made to reach agreement on this matter at an early date.

Eradication of Leprosy

*35. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of leprosy is on the increase in the country and the arrangements to eradicate leprosy are inadequate; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Ship-Building Yard during Seventh Plan

*36. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up ship building/ship repairing yards during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Ship-Building and Ship Repair Industry set up by the Planning Commission for the Seventh Plan has proposed the creation of a new ship-building yard. However, the Seventh Plan proposals are yet to be finalised. For ship repair facilities, private entrepreneurs are being encouraged to create such facilities to various ports of the country.

Drastic cut in Financial Allocation for power development in the Seventh Five-Year Plan

*37. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Seventh Five-Year Plan financial allocation for the power development has been drastically cut from the estimated Rs. 68,000 crores to Rs. 35,000 crores; and

(b) if so, to what extent it will affect the various power generation projects?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Seventh Plan allocation of the Power sector are not commensurate with the requirements projected by the Working Group on Power.

(b) The effect on the power generation projects will be determined after the Seventh Plan is finalized by the National Development council.